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Central Valley Project Conservation Program

The Mid-Pacific Region's Central Valley Project Conservation Program works with federal, state, local, non-governmental and private partners to provide funding for projects to benefit federally listed and other special status terrestrial species whose habitats have been affected by land conversion due, in part, to the delivery of CVP water.

In 2010, the CVPCP provided more than \$1.8 million to help leverage nearly \$15 million in partner funding to support research and acquire and/or restore more than 3,700 acres of habitat for federally listed species.

Funds were provided to:

- Help acquire and protect 1,638 acres of serpentine soil habitats on Coyote Ridge in Santa Clara County. The property contains what is believed to be the only remaining sustainable population of the federally endangered Bay Checkerspot Butterfly. The property also supports a diversity of rare endemic native plants including the federally endangered Metcalf Canyon Jewelflower and Santa Clara Valley Dudleya, and the federally threatened California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander.
- Acquire a conservation easement to protect about 1,400 acres of vernal pools and grassland habitats, and the federal and state-listed species they support, on the JCR Ranch in eastern Merced County. Special status species to be protected include the California tiger salamander, western spadefoot toad, Hartweg's golden sunburst, dwarf downingia, vernal pool fairy shrimp, succulent owl's clover, western burrowing owl, and others. Protection of the ranch will provide a connection and wildlife corridor with working cattle ranches to the south, which have conservation easements both pending and proposed. The land protected by the easement is a working cattle ranch on which Region staff and others will work with landowners to use cattle grazing as a management tool to foster the preservation and recovery of species on the land, while supporting the local agricultural economy.

- Restore riparian habitats on 18 acres along nearly two miles of the San Joaquin River at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. The restoration will benefit the riparian woodrat, and other riparian dependent species. The project will also provide high ground for the riparian brush rabbit, an endangered species whose recovery is threatened by loss during high river flows.